

Blood Systems Laboratories

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INTERPRETATION INFORMATION SHEET

Trypanosoma cruzi (T. cruzi) Serology

Anti-T. cruzi EIA: This enzyme-linked immunoassay (EIA) allows detection of antibody to Trypanosoma cruzi. T. cruzi is a parasitic infection endemic to regions in Latin America resulting in Chagas disease. It is recommended that repeatedly reactive samples be investigated by additional tests for antibody to T. cruzi before a specimen is considered positive, indicating T. cruzi infection.

T. cruzi Antibody RIPA (Radio-Immunoprecipitation Assay): This radio-labeled immunoprecipitation assay is a qualitative test for detection of antibody to T. cruzi and is intended to be used as an additional, more specific test for specimens found to be repeatedly reactive by screening procedures.

- A positive T. cruzi RIPA test result is indicative of an acute or chronic infection with T. cruzi.
- An indeterminate or negative T. cruzi RIPA test may be indicative of cross-reactivity with other similar parasitic infections. In these cases, additional testing is recommended.

Final interpretations of any serology assay must consider additional medical history. A negative serology test does not exclude the possibility of infection with T. cruzi.

Interpretation Table

T. cruzi EIA	T. cruzi RIPA	Most likely interpretation
Reactive	Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ T. cruzi antibody present, indicative of acute or chronic infection▪ Recommend referral to physician
Reactive	Indeterminate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Possible T. cruzi infection▪ In absence of risk factors, may be false positive▪ Recommend referral to physician and follow-up due to inconclusive results
Reactive	Negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Possible nonspecific serologic reactivity▪ Cross-reactivity demonstrated with Leishmaniasis, malaria, schistosomiasis▪ Recommend referral to physician

REFERENCES:

- Ortho T. cruzi ELISA Test System product insert – November 2006.
- Quest Diagnostic Nichols Institute, Chantilly, VA; Laboratory Update, Volume 1 – January 2007